

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 270612Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8775
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP,AF, UR, US
SUBJECT: CHARGE PROTESTS ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA BY SOVIET EMBASSY

1. WHEN I SAW DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DOST ON JUNE 25, I RAISED WITH HIM THE MATTER OF GROWING VIOLATIONS BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY OF THE SO-CALLED "THIRD COUNTRY RULE." I TOLD HIM THAT, SINCE THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION, THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD STEPPED UP ITS ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA IN ITS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED "NEWS BULLETIN," AND WE TOOK THIS VERY MUCH AMISS. IF LEFT HIM TWO RECENT EXAMPLES, ONE BEING

ISSUE OF JUNE 19, WHICH WAS EXCLUSIVELY "ON THE PRESENT POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT," AND REPRESENTED A DIATRIBE AGAINST THE USA, DRAWN OSTENSIBLY FROM "PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL SOVIET PAPERS."

2. SOVIET EMBASSY VIOLATIONS OF THE THIRD COUNTRY RULE ARE NOT A NEW PHENOMENON. DURING THE DAOUD REGIME, THE SOVIET EMBASSY PERIODICALLY INCLUDED ANTI-U.S. ATTACKS IN THE "NEWS BULLETIN," AND JUST AS REGULARLY WE WOULD BRING THESE VIOLATIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. AFTER EACH OF OUR DEMARCHES, THE STATEMENTS WOULD DISAPPEAR FOR A WHILE. SINCE APRIL 27, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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HARDLY AN ISSUE OF THE "NEWS BULLETIN" HAS COME OUT WITHOUT SOME ANTI-U.S. STATEMENT, AND THE VIRULENCE OF THESE ATTACKS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY MARKED. WHEN EARLIER WE TWICE PROTESTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AT A LOWER LEVEL, OUR REPRESENTATIONS SEEMINGLY HAD NO EFFECT.

3. MY TAKING THE MATTER UP WITH DEPFONMIN DOST MAY NOT HELP EITHER, BUT IT HAS PUT DOST HIMSELF ON NOTICE OF OUR CONERN, AND HE SAID HE HAD BEEN AWARE OF OUR EARLIER PROTESTS. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE THIRD COUNTRY RULE WAS A WORLDWIDE CUSTOM, AND IF THE SOVIETS CONTINUED THESE ATTACKS, WE WOULD BE TEMPTED TO ACT LIKEWISE. DOST QUICKLY RESPONDED BY SAYING, THAT IN VIEW OF "THE PRESENT SITUATION," HE DID HOPE WE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC ATTACKS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. "IF YOU HAVE TO RETALIATE," HE SAID, "PERHAPS YOU COULD DO SO IN ANOTHER COUNTRY." I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT WERE WE TO FOLLOW HIS RECOMMENDATION, WE WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF THE THIRD COUNTRY RULE, AND THIS WAS NOT OUR PRACTICE. AMSTUTZ

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